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Araku, Visakhapatnam District



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I N T R O D U C T I O N

The Lord of Simhadri, Sri Varahanarasimha Swamy's influence is never on the wane.

Before Visakhapatnam acquired a civilised character, the Lord had been commanding the devotion and allegiance of Kings, Chieftains, Jamindars and other rich for nearly five centuries. The expansion of the city and the consequent growth in population has only swelled the number of devotees. It is inevitable that in the years to come, the temple should develop on par with the city. This booklet relates the mythological and historical aspects of the kshetra and other information about the rituals in the temple, besides providing an overview of the enchanting beauty of Vizag, its tourist spots and industrial centres as well as travel and accommodation facilities for devotees and tourists.



1

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2

contents

Mythology	3	Temple information	27
Simhachalam in History	5	Photo Gallery -III	29 — 32
The Temple	6	The Lord's Time Table	33
Photo Gallery-I	9 — 12	Tourism Package Tours	34
Photo Gallery -II	17 — 20	Tourism Corporation Accommodation	36
Holidayer's Paradise	21	Private Accommodation	38
Hotspot for all	24	The Industrial Hub	40
Buddhist sites	26		

Cover: Against a backdrop of the picturesque Rishikonda beach stands Sri Varahanarasimha Swamy holding on his snout, the world that has been salvaged from the seabed. Inset shows the Vimanam of the main temple at Simhachalam. The illustration of Varahanarasimha Swamy has been drawn by artist Bali

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MYTHOLOGY

At Bhadrachalam in Khammam district, it was given to a tribal woman, Dammakka, to rediscover a long-lost stone image of Lord Rama with Sita and Lakshmana; at Simhachalam near Visakhapatnam city, Sri Hari chose the temptress extraordinary of Indra Loka, Urvasi to disclose to the world, His incarnation. A peep into *puranic* lore reveals that Emperor Puroorava was a human being like you and I. But he fell in love with the celestial damsel, Urvasi, a courtesan and a prima donna in the court of Lord Indra. Swayed by passion, he approached Urvasi and pleaded with her to be his companion. The damsel, equally impressed by Puroorava, agreed but imposed certain conditions of which one was that he should never be seen in the nude by her. Puroorava condescended and in course of time, Urvasi bore him 11 sons. Meanwhile, a mischievous Gandharva, who wanted to bring about a separation between the couple, committed a theft in the couple's household when Puroorava was lying naked in the bed. The king woke up and anxious to overpower the thief, started chasing him, unmindful of the fact that he was not dressed. On seeing him nude, Urvasi returned to *devaloka* instantly. The love-lorn Puroorava searched for Urvasi everywhere and finally succeeded in regaining her after performing an intense penance.

Puroorava and Urvasi, in their journeys visited Simhachalam, and were enchanted by the beauty of the forest. While Puroorava was finding it difficult to identify the forest, Urvasi said that she was able to recollect the surroundings. This surprised Puroorava. Urvasi disclosed that many years ago, the demon king Hiranyakasipu had subjected his son Prahlada to inhuman physical torture for worshipping Sri Hari. On one occasion, young Prahlada was thrown into the sea

to get drowned, but miraculously, with the name of Lord Hari on his lips, he surfaced at Simhachalam. But he could not swim to safety, as he was being crushed by the weight of a mountain base which was none other than Simhachalam. At that precise moment, Sri Hari arrived on the scene in his Varahavataram and raised the mountain enough with his powerful snout, to enable Prahlada to swim away. This intercession of Sri Hari was witnessed by the Devatas with great rejoicement. Sri Hari had not only saved an ardent devotee but taught an unforgettable lesson to the hated Hiranyakasipu who was harassing all peace-loving people. The incident carried enough hints that Hiranakasipu's days were drawing to a close. Relating this episode, Urvasi said that she was a witness to Sri Hari directing Prahlada to consecrate an image of His on the hill and arrange for its worship for the welfare of mankind.

Purooravas's imagination was fired by listening to this tale. He developed a desire to have darshan of Sri Hari. As a penance would take a long time to bear fruit, he decided in favour of *prayopavesa* — a fast unto death — to meet Sri Hari. After three nights, Srihari appeared to Puroorava and said that he was very close-by, though concealed by an ant-hill. Sri Hari desired to be bathed in 'Panchamrita' and worshipped sincerely with offerings of food, clothes, flowers, incense, music and dance. After consecration, Sri Hari wanted hymns to be recited, his image smeared with a thick coat of sandal paste, the icon garlanded and adorned with jewellery.

Puroorava, as advised by Urvasi, then made arrangements to dissolve the ant-hill by pouring hundreds of pots of milk on it. The image that finally emerged delighted the king immensely. It had a boar's face which was calm and peaceful, strong legs, broad chest, and powerful shoulders and tail. The image was white in colour. But his feet were not visible. He cleaned the image repeatedly but Sri Hari's feet still remained hidden. This saddened Puroorava.





4

The merciful Sri Hari, speaking in a formless voice, consoled the King saying that He had intentionally concealed the feet as its very darshan can fetch liberation to a devotee. The Lord was visible to a yogi totally immersed in meditation, and others lacking in rigorous spiritual training could not get a glimpse of His divine feet.

Sri Hari promised that devotees who worship him on the third day of Vaisakha when the sandal paste shrouding the image is peeled off and a fresh coat applied are, however, ensured of Paramapada. This message of the Lord cheered Puroorava somewhat.

He then arranged to secure from the rich forest all the best that it could offer — saffron, musk, sandal paste, flowers and incense to worship the deity. With his yogic powers, he brought Kamadhenu from Indraloka and offered a variety of dishes to Varahanarasimha as sanctified food. He also deployed several apsaras to dance before the Lord and the gandharvas to play and sing. It was amidst such festivities that the image of the Lord was duly consecrated on the first day in Vaisakha month after the Treta yuga began. (Treta yuga, according to Hindu tradition, commenced about 25.92 lakh years ago.)

Minor variations of this story may be seen in ancient books but this version is closest to the *sthala purana* (place history) of Simhachalam.

Puroorava reigned as a king for a long time and looked after the temple carefully. His sons and their descendents, equally virtuous and devoted to Sri Hari followed the footsteps of Puroorava.

JEWELS FOR THE LORD

Nearly 500 years ago, to be precise on Saturday, March 29, 1516 AD, Krishna Devaraya of Vijayanagara offered worship to Sri Varahanarasimha Swamy at Simhachalam. Enroute, he had captured the forts of Uddagiri, Kondaveedu and Rajamahendravara. The emperor was accompanied by his wives Chinna Devi and Thirumala Devi.

As a mark of gratitude for blessing him with the conquest, he offered a necklace studded with 91 pearls, a pair of diamond-studded kadias, Shankha Chakra Pathakam, a gold plate and madas. Chinna Devi and Thirumaladevi also presented pathakams and varahas to the main deity.

Jewellery: Though the numerous inscriptions in the temple furnish details of ornaments given by kings, nobles and others to Lord, many have been lost in the raids of Muslim brigands. The present collection is of recent acquisitions. Some of the important ornaments are:

Necklace: A necklace of uncut green emeralds has a beautiful ruby at the centre. In the ruby is carved an image of Surya's chariot. This is believed to have been gifted by Krishnaraya of Vijayanagara.

Tirumani: This is studded with diamonds and contains a ruby too. Tirumani is a replica of the Vaishnava symbol which the devout wear on their forehead.

Waist Belt: This is made of gold weighing about 100 tulas.

Crest: This has been gifted to the temple by Vijayarama Gajapati (1848-79).

Simhachalam in History

It is agreed that Simhachalam grew in importance only during the medieval period. An 8th century eastern Chalukyan record says that Bhogapuram, lying 30 miles north of Simhachalam as being situated in Madhyama Kalinga which points to the fact that Simhachalam and surroundings formed part of Kalinga. According to the great epic Mahabharata, the kingdom of Kalinga extended from river Vaitharani in Cuttack district to Godavari in Andhra Pradesh. From the accounts of the Chinese pilgrim Hieun Tsang who visited the country in mid-seventh century, it is apparent that Kalinga came to be divided into three parts. Consequently, in course of time, the boundaries of Kalinga had decreased. Interestingly, the village Kaifiyats of Mackenzie in 19th century include Visakhapatnam, Srikakulam and Ganjam district in Kalinga.

Ramanujacharya of 12th century participated in a grand debate with pandits of other vedantic schools at Puri in Orissa. Emerging successful from it, he came down to Srikurmam in Srikakulam district and later proceeded to Simhachalam. He is stated to have defeated the arguments of the local Shaivites and took over the possession of the temple.

There is another version concerning the transformation of Simhachalam into a Vaishnava Kshetra.

After a discussion with the local priests, Ramanujacharya challenged them to a practical test. He asked the priests to keep some Vibhuti and Tulasi at the altar and observe which of them remains there the next morning. Vibhuti is dear to Siva and Tulasi likewise to Vishnu. The challenge was accepted by the priest.

As Ramanuja was the very incarnation of Adishesha, he took the form of a snake and gained easy entry into the central shrine and left Tulasi undisturbed. Next morning, the priests agreed to convert the temple into a Vishnu shrine as

they were convinced about the greatness of Sri Hari.

In the last quarter of 13th century, many feudatory dynasties rose in Madhyama Kalinga but all the chiefs were great devotees of Varahanarasimha. The temple has a number of inscriptions confirming this aspect.

Though several Ganga rulers held sway over the region in the 14th century, it was actually the feudal chiefs who ruled over smaller areas after dividing the land. Koppula and Korukonda chiefs from Godavari region also made forays into the region without recognising any bigger ruler. The temple has records giving details of the gifts made by them. The unsettled conditions in Madhyama Kalinga tempted the Reddy kings of coastal Andhra, Recharla chiefs of Telangana and Rayas of Vijayanagara to occupying Kalinga. When Kataya Vema established an eastern kingdom of Reddys with capital at Rajahmundry, his intention was to safeguard the authority of Reddys in Kalinga. It was the decline of Reddy power in coastal Andhra after 1420 AD that made the path easy for Devaraya to conquer coastal Andhra. After overpowering enemies at Kondaveedu, the Vijayanagara Army moved forward to defeat Bhanudeva IV and occupied Simhadri.

After an interlude marked by frequent conflicts involving Gangas, Gajapathis and Muslim rulers of Quli Qutubshah, the English arrived to establish settlement at Visakhapatnam in 1682 AD. History records that a trader by name Thomas Bowrey was conducting business unauthorisedly at the port under the name of East India Company and was making a lot of money. This prompted the company headquarters at Chennai to frustrate Bowrey's cheating.

In two years, it was able to compete with the Dutch at Bheemunipatnam. Paying an annual rent of Rs 4,500 to the Muslim chief stationed at Chicacole in 1685 AD, the East India Company acquired trade rights in Kalinga and also dues in Visakhapatnam town.





THE TEMPLE

LOCATED 800 feet above the sea level on the Eastern Ghats, Simhachalam temple is on the north of Visakhapatnam Port city. The hill range on which the temple stands is known as Kailasa which runs from Lawson's Bay in Visakhapatnam to Simhachalam. Geologists opine that in the distant past, this relatively small hill range might have been as big as any of, the Eastern Ghats.

Unlike other parts of Andhra Pradesh, there are no big rivers or Delta systems in Visakhapatnam district. Gosthani, Sarada and Varaha are close to Simhachalam but they cannot even be considered as minor rivers. Half the district is still covered by forests and hilly tract.

But Kailasa range abounds in springs and rivulets. The springs — Sitammadhara, Simhachalamdhara and Madhavadhara are well-known.

Simhachalam — the hill of the lion — actually denotes the powerful Man — Lion Narasimha, who is the fourth avatar of Lord Vishnu. The preceding three incarnations were Matsyavatara, Kurmavatara and Varahavatara. The presiding deity at Simhachalam, Varahanarasimha, has Lakshmi as his consort and people endearingly call him "Simhadri Appanna".

The temple is reached by a flight of about 1000 steps from Adivaram village, a pathway from Madhavadhara as well as a ghat road used by motor vehicles to go to the foot of the temple. A devotee going up the stairs can not only enjoy the beautiful forest surroundings but witness several gods in the little niches on the walls. A visitor opting for the ancient steps route will be passing through three gateways before he reaches the main temple. They are Bhairava Dwara at Adivaram village, Hanuman gate which is near a spring called Hanumandhara and then Akashadhara (an artificial waterfall) and then reaches a natural spring known as Vedavathi.

There is no denying the fact that though Sri Kurmam and Mukhalingam in Srikakulam district were also once famous, the Simhachalam temple has become immensely popular because it is almost part of the Visakhapatnam city where commercial and business activity has also been on the increase. Equally important is the patronage extended by the Jamindars of Vizianagaram through gifts of land, arranging supply of water for growing flowers and raising fruit trees. Indeed, it is one of the bulk supplier of flowers and fruits to several markets nearby. The common people in the district invariably visit Simhachalam on Friday and spend the night singing songs in praise of Simhadrinatha and worship the deity at daybreak on Saturday.

There may be communication without respite between Visakhapatnam city and Simhachalam today, but it was different in the past centuries. Of the numerous inscriptions found on the temple there is only a single one of the fifteenth century which refers to Visakhapatnam. The importance of the port city grew fast after the British settlement. The expansion of the city has helped Simhachalam attract more pilgrims and achieve much development.

Contrary to normal practice, the temple at Simhachalam faces west instead of east. Tradition has it that a difference of opinion between the chief architect and his son led to the temple facing west. The scriptures say that while an east-facing entrance promotes prosperity, west-facing entrance ensures victory. This may be one reason why rulers and chiefs over a span of 1000 years had without distinction paid respects to Varahanarasimha. It is likely that Gangadhara, the principal spring which flows from east to west is another strong reason in favour of the temple facing west.

As the temple stands on a plain ground on the hill, one has to climb 30 steps to reach the main entrance. The interior of the temple includes a central shrine, a porch in the front, an assembly hall — all in a single row — and enclosing this are a cloister and a marriage hall on the north-west.

THE ASSEMBLY HALL

This is a big 16-pillared hall with dome like roof. At the main entrance of this hall is the 50-foot high dhvajasthamba. There are several inscriptions incised on the outer as well as inner walls of the assembly hall.

KAPPA STHAMBHAM

The Kappa Sthambham is a pillar near the assembly. It is believed to fulfill the wishes of those that embraced the pillar with a pure mind and is famous for granting progeny to childless couples. In the view of the tradition-minded people, a Santhanagopala Yantra may have been installed beneath the pillar to empower it to grant the request of devotees. Kappam is nothing but a 'tribute' given in cash or kind to the pillar in order to get one's wish fulfilled.

THE MAIN DEITY

The chief deity, Varahanarasimha, occupying the central shrine can be seen on a pedestal. A rectangular mandapa known as Prahlada mandapa surrounds the deity. The icon can be seen covered with a thick coat of sandal paste shaped like a sandalwood linga. It is only on the third day of Vaisakha month that the sandal paste is removed to reveal the actual shape of the lord. The icon has two hands, the head of a boar, tail of a lion and a human torso. Metal images of Sridevi and Bhoodevi holding lotuses are on either side of the main deity.

By the side of the main deity is Yoga Narasimha seated cross-legged. He can be seen holding a conch and a discus in his upper hands. While one of the lower hands rests on the knee, the other is head high in abhaya mudra. The principle icon is adorned by a garland of 108 salagramams. The black stones of the garland which are actually fossil ammonite are as sacred to the devotees as the main deity.

The front porch has two rooms on the south and north and they are known as Bhoga mandir and Sayana mandir. In these two rooms can be seen icons of Govinda Raja, Madana Gopala Swamy, Sudarshana Perumal, Chathurbhuj Tayar, Andal and Lakshminarayana. In the Sayana Mandir, there is a swing to put the Lord to sleep. A metal image of Venugopala Swamy is placed here, flanked by Rukmini and Satyabhama.





8

CHANDANA YATRA

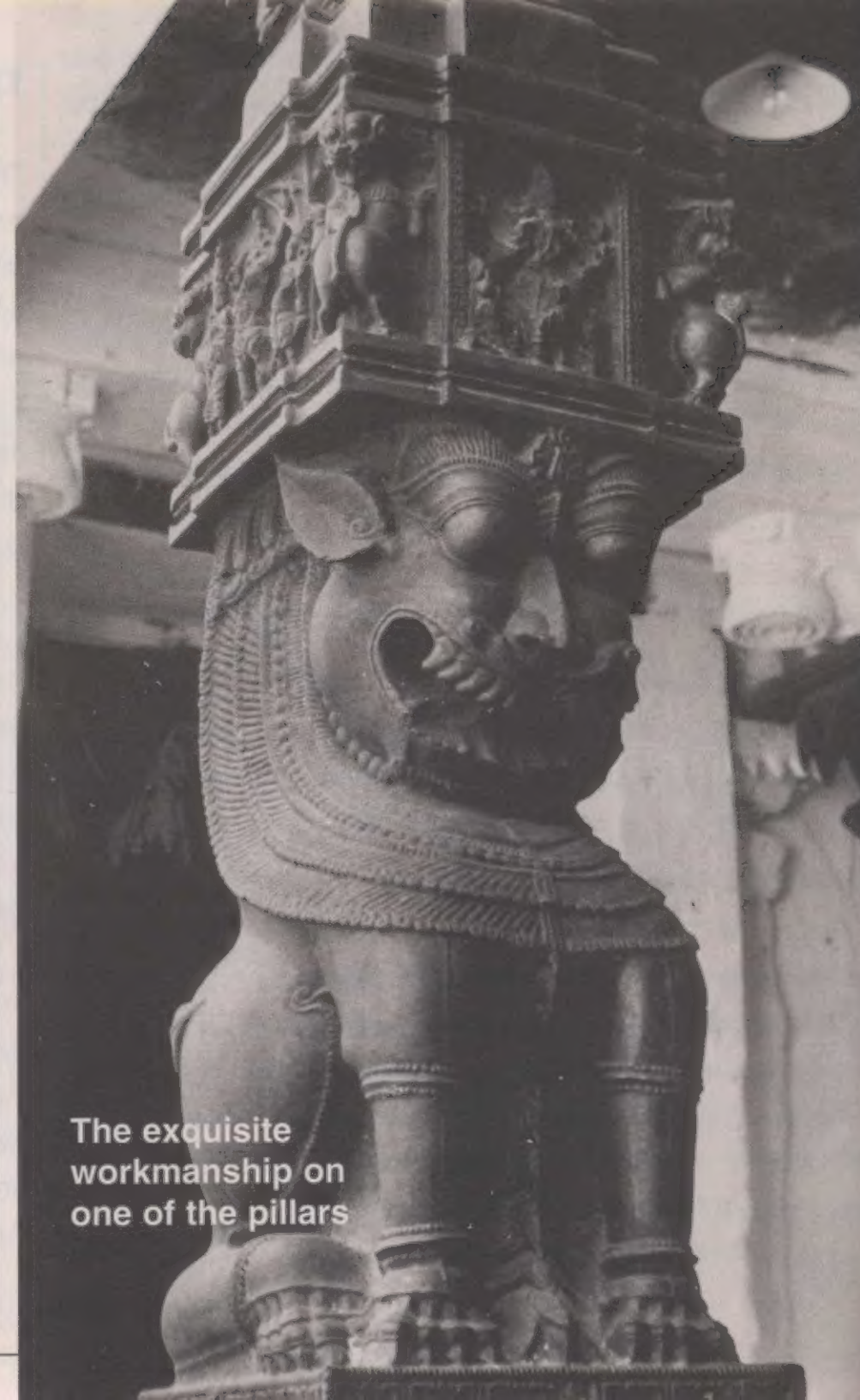
Devotees are familiar with the annual Chandana Yatra of Sri Varaha Narasimha Swamy but not many know that He is coated with a fresh layer no less than four times a year.

Vaisakha Suddha Tadiya, Vaisakha Pournami, Jyeshtha Pournami and Ashadha Pournami are the four auspicious days in the year when the Lord is treated to a fresh waft of cool sandal. Naturally, these four coats form fresh layers the year round. While the Chandana Yatra begins on Vaisakha Suddha Tadiya after fully scraping off the layers of the preceding year, the remaining three strengthen the sandal coat for the Lord.

All this consumes 500 kg of sandal paste annually. The sandalwood required for this purpose is specially procured from Tirupattur in Tamil Nadu. The designated staff in the temple commence the laborious manual preparation of the paste one month before the specified date of decorating the Lord.

It is on the Chandana Yatra day, when the entire sandal paste is peeled off that the devotees are blessed with the Nijarupa Darshana of Sri Hari. The hardened sandalwood paste is removed by blindfolded temple priests amidst chanting of Vedas and this process takes about two hours. Later, the priests cast away their eye-binds. At the time of Nijarupa Darshana devotees perform abhisheka and special pooja.

This event has from time immemorial been attracting a large number of devotees from the coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh as well as many contingents from neighbouring Orissa.



The exquisite workmanship on one of the pillars

The temple set amidst hills and
verdant greenery



Priests carrying
'naivedyam'
to the Lord

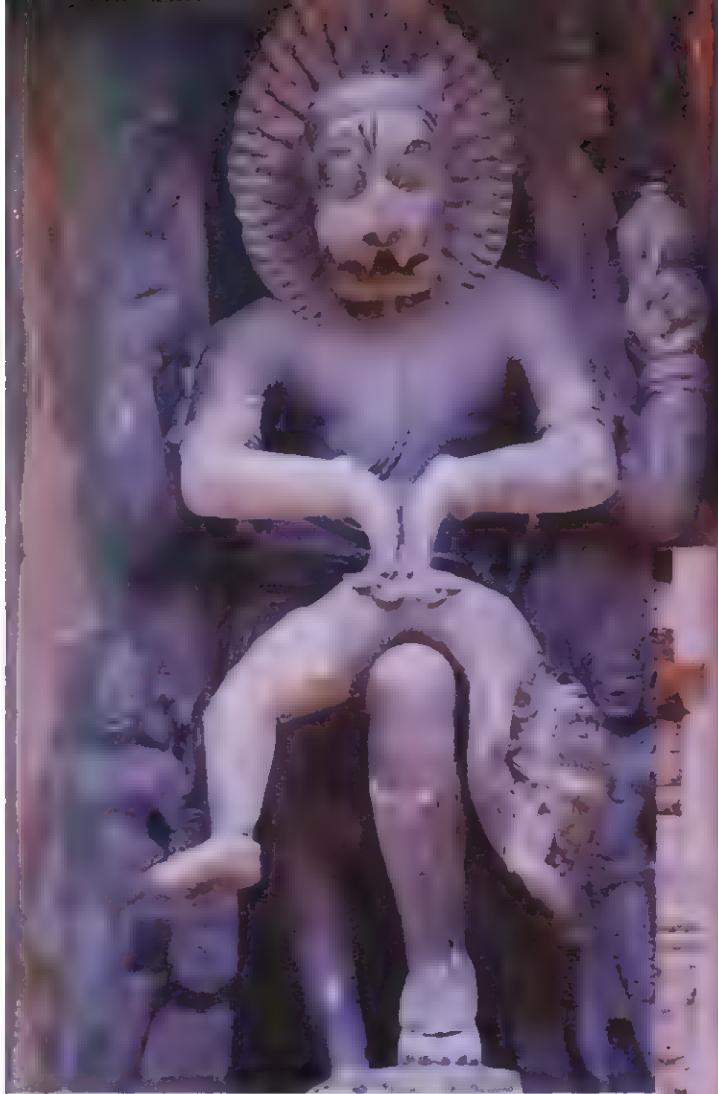


The steps to the top of Simhadri

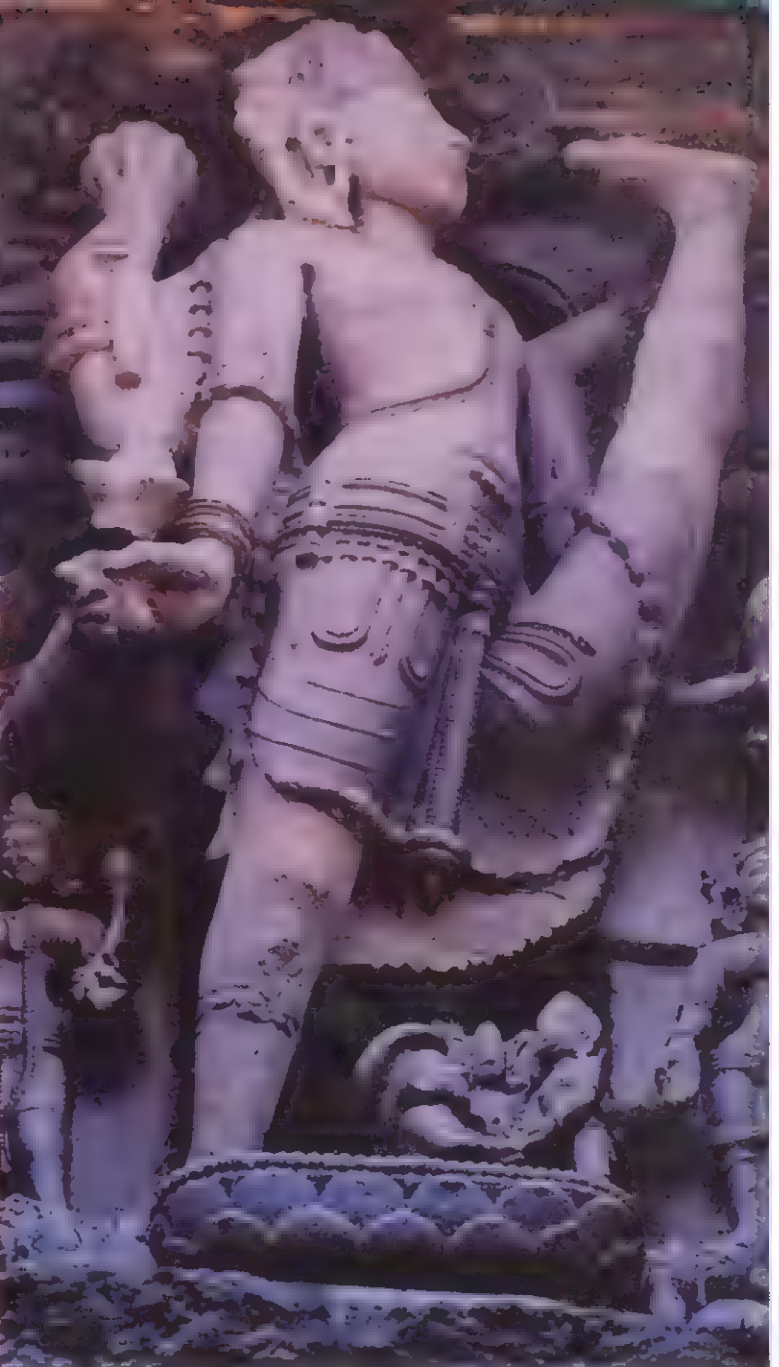


A father bathing his
toddler son at
Gangadhara after
the tonsure
ceremony

AVATARS ON
THE OUTER
WALL OF
CENTRAL
SHRINE



Hiranyakasipu put to
death by Narasimha



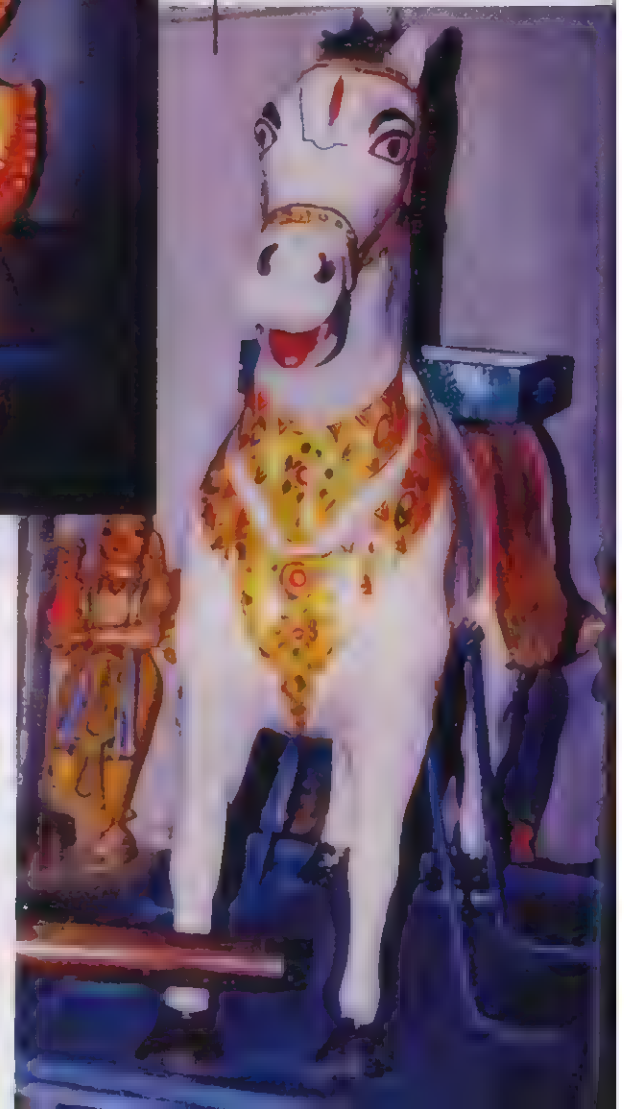
Vamanavatara

Varahanarasimha




Garuda Vahana

Aswa Vahana



The wish fulfilling
'Kappasthambham' in front
of Mukhamantapam



A woman with a
fly adorning one
of the pillars

LORD'S LANDS DIMINISHING

Sri Varaha Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy was once a big landlord but has not been able to save himself from the rapacity of modern land sharks.

Sri Pusapati Ananda Gajapathi Raju of Vizianagaram originally gifted 24 villages to the temple with a view to ensuring regular income to meet the expenses for performing 'Dhupa', 'Deepa' and 'Naivedyam' to the presiding deity.

These lands were given on lease to local people some of whom subsequently claimed ownership rights. After the Estate Abolition Act and Inam Abolition Act came into force, Revenue administration entered the picture to implement the Acts. The Revenue department declared 19 villages as falling within its control and only five villages — Adivivaram, Cheemalapally, Venkatapuram, Purushothampuram and Vepagunta — were left for the temple. The five villages accounted for 19,000 acre land as belonging to the temple according to a survey done in 1903 but on date it is only 11,000 acre.

The long drawn battle of the temple authorities to protect the lands is still going on. The State government has recently appointed a committee to look into this issue and suggest a permanent solution.





14

Various Gifts

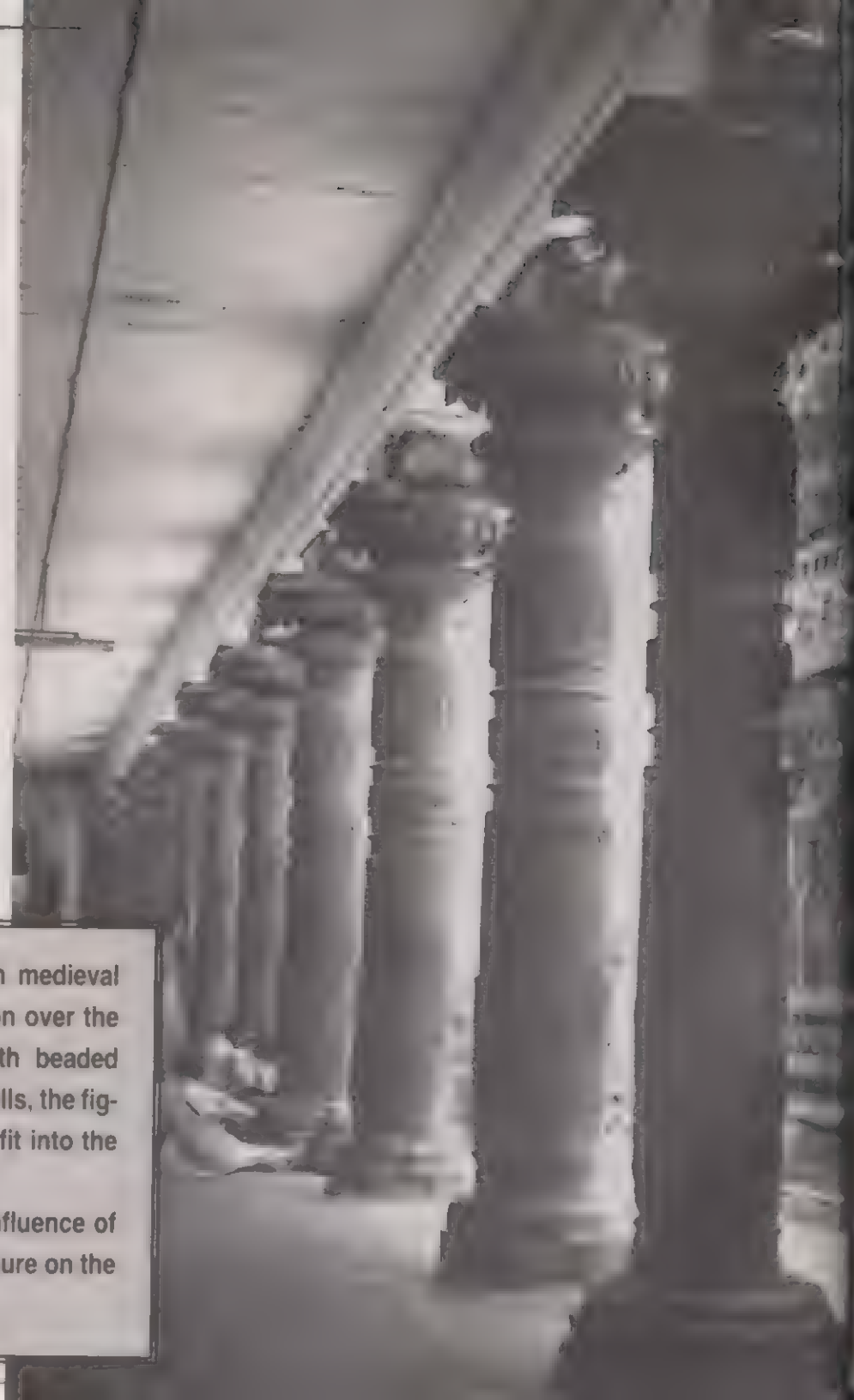
Since hundreds of years, devotees of Sri Narasimha Swamy have been gifting various articles in kind to the Lord.

On October 25, 1292 AD, Arjuna Deva belonging to Matsya Vamsha gave 32 cows, the ghee from which could be used to perpetually light a lamp before Varahanarasimha. This gift was made to secure merit for his brother Annamaraja who had died.

An inscription dated Monday, August 8, 1519 AD, records that villages taken over from Prataparudhra Gajapathi were donated for offering daily bhogas in the name of Krishnadevaraya. The villages and hamlets donated are Pedagani, Aganapudi, Gangavarampalle and Pinna Agnapudi. The specified bhogas included Agar, Karpura, Kasturi, Kumkuma puvvu, flower gardens and rice.

There are also inscriptions made by rich and powerful devotees making arrangements for resettling scores of female dancers to perform before the Lord whenever called upon to do so.

The cloister around the shrine.



SCULPTURE

The sculpture of the Simhachalam temple exhibits close affinity with medieval Orissan art. The prominent motifs such as the motif of the rampant lion over the couched elephant (Gajavyala), the sculpture of the Kirtimukhas with beaded strings issuing from their mouth, the hordes of animals, the creeper scrolls, the figures of young damsels, enormous couples and the Naga bandhana — fit into the patters of medieval Orissan art at Bhubaneswar, Puri and Konark.

Though the Sculpture of Simhachalam temple shows unmistakable influence of medieval Orissan art, the influence of other art can be seen in the sculpture on the pillars, panels of creepers and dancers and musicians.



The
stone
chariot

Ratha Mandapa

This chariot is another porch sculpted in stone to look like a Ratha. The chariot has wheels and a horse on either side. On the Ratha Saptami festival day, the Lord is brought to the chariot and worshipped.

There are separate shrines for Lakshmi and Andal. On the southern side of the assembly hall, there is another shrine for the 12 Alvars, the saints of Vaishnavites. In this shrine, there are also images of Ramanuja Charya, his pupil Kurattalwar and Manavala Mahamuni to whom special services are performed on their respective birthdays. Beyond the southern enclosure, there is the Ramanuja Kutam which offers accommodation to Vaishnava pilgrims.

Kalyana Mandapam: *This lies on the northeastern corner of the courtyard. The wedding of the Lord takes place on the 11th day in the first half of Chaitra month every year in this pillared hall. The Lord is conducted to Gangadhara after the Kalyanotsava for a purificatory but Gangadhara is hardly 200 mts from the temple.*

Other shrines on the hill include one dedicated to Tripurantaka who is protector of Holy Simhachala Kshetra. Near Gangadhara is located the Sitaramaswamy temple.

Gali gopuram : *The main gateway located on the western side is popularly known as Gali Gopuram. As the temple stands on a terrace of the hill, the main entrance has to be approached by a flight of 30 steps.*





16

ALL ARE EQUAL HERE

Harijan Entry into Simhachalam Temple: Hindu devotees of all four varnas had equal access to enter this central shrine of the temple since a long time. Though pilgrims from all parts of the country visited the temple, entry into the temple was however barred to malas and madigas. It is remarkable that late former minister P V G Raju who was the trustee of the temple took the lead in taking out a procession of Harijans into the temple in 1948. Ever since all Hindus regardless of caste have been worshipping Varahanarasimha.

The fortunate Pusapatis

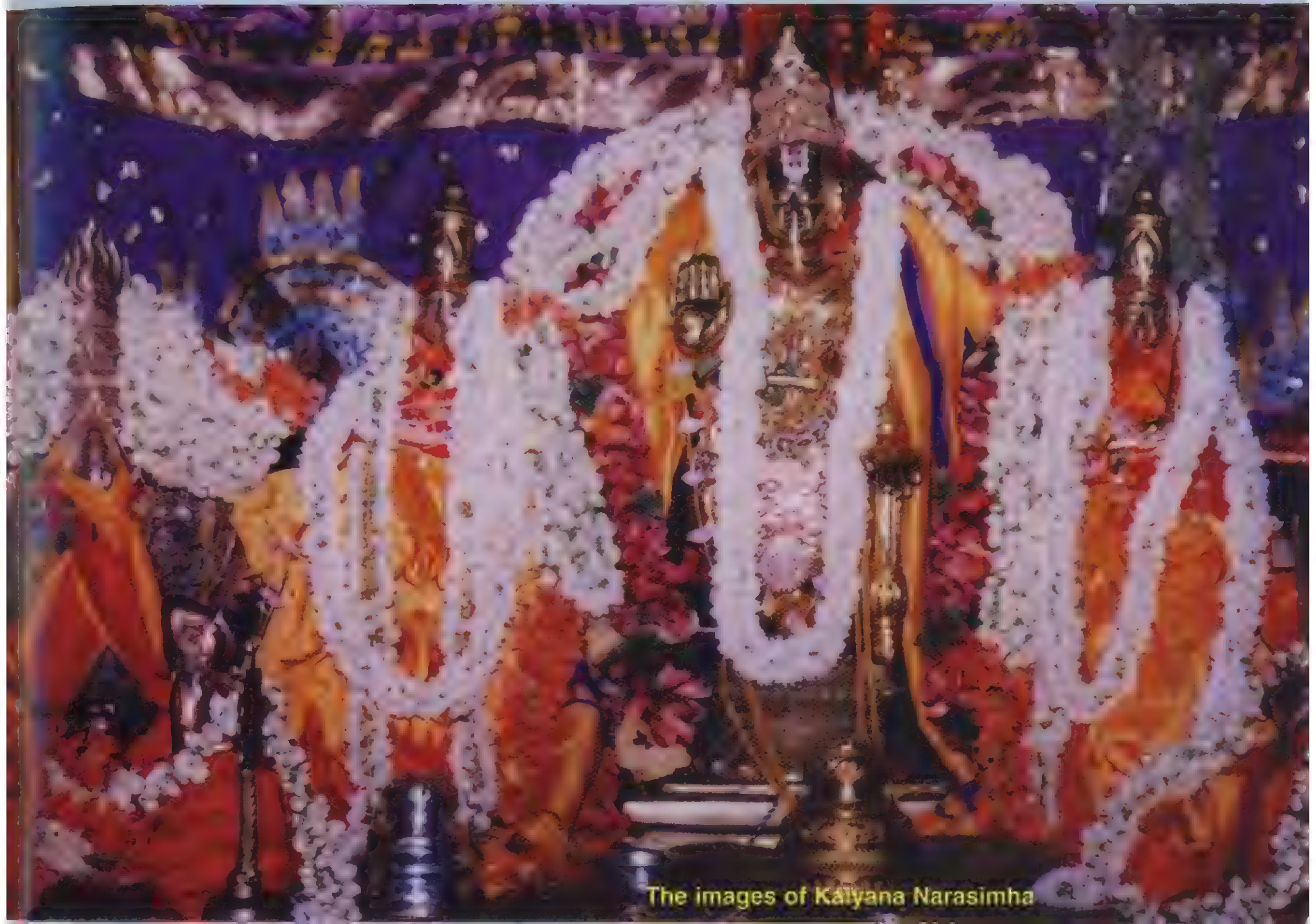
Pusapati Gajapathi Rajas of Vizianagaram are fortunate to serve the Lord atop sacred Simhachalam Hill.

In any given year, the eldest member of Pusapati family will be privileged to have the first darshan of 'Nija Rupa' of the Lord on the day of Chandana Yatra.

The first Pooja in the morning every day is also being performed in the name and *gotra* (vashistasa) of the eldest member of the Pusapati family. The eldest in the Raja's family is also the hereditary chairman of the Temple Trust Board while other members of the Board are appointed by the State government.

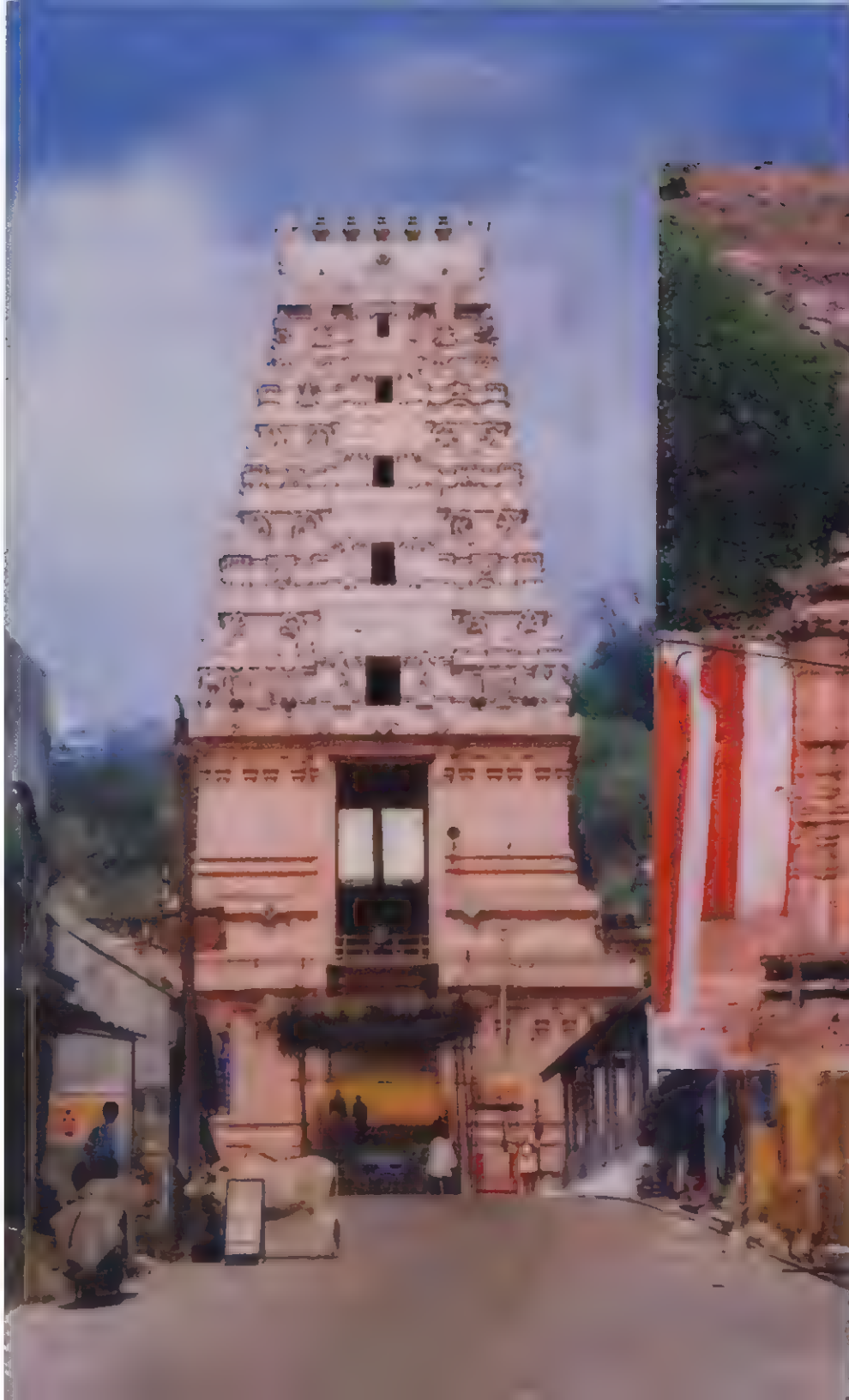
Sri Pusapati Ananda Gajapathi Raju of Vizianagaram, a great devotee of Lord Narasimha strove for the all round development of the temple. His eldest son and former minister P V G Raju was the first hereditary chairman of the Temple Trust Board. He took keen interest in developing the temple and providing amenities to the pilgrims.

Now P V G Raju's eldest son and former minister Pusapati Vijayananda Gajapathi Raju, being the hereditary chairman, will have the 'Nija Rupa' darshan of the Lord on Chandanotsava Yatra day on May 11, 2005.



The images of Kalyana Narasimha

Sri Sitaramachandra swamy temple raised by
Lakshmi Gajapati Raju in the 15th century



The main entrance of the
temple atop the hill



The row of pillars in Kalyanmangalam
(inset) the wooden chariot



Varaha pushkarini down-hill of Simhadri
(Inset) 'Nityarupa' — Icon shrouded by sandal paste (left)
and 'Nijarupa' — without the coating (right)

Holidayer's paradise

DESCRIBED as the City of Destiny, Visakhapatnam is becoming a destination of global tourism. Apart from the spots promoted by the State Tourism Department and AP Tourism Development Corporation, the Visakhapatnam Urban Development Authority (VUDA) has developed a number of tourism projects on its own in city. Golden beaches that stretch as far as your imagination, green hills rising high on the other side and a city thriving on industry and commerce. Visakhapatnam offers all these and there are a number of places in the port city to visit and enjoy the surroundings.

KAILASAGIRI

IT is one of the prominent hilltop parks with panoramic sea view on the East Coast. The divine view from the hilltop accompanies devotional overtones as Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvathi sit ever so peacefully as if at the Manasa

Sarovar in the great Himalayas. One can view the entire city of Visakhapatnam from the top of this eco-rich hill. Located on a picturesque hill with enchanting panoramic sea view, Kailasagiri is really an outstanding tourist spot. The hill park developed by VUDA covers 380 acre of land with exciting landscape gardens consisting rich flora and tropical trees. Situated at an altitude of 360 ft., the hill park gives fascinating views of sun-kissed beaches on one side and the lush green forests on the other side beside an enthralling view of the bustling metropolis of Visakhapatnam.

The floral clock with a diameter of 10 ft, one of the biggest in the country is another attraction on the hilltop. A capsule lift has been provided to enthrall the visitors to view the beauty of blue seawaters and the city along with stunning beauties of the hilltop from further heights.

ROPEWAY

A ropeway on Kailasagiri hill provides an enthralling air journey. The ropeway is the first of its kind in Andhra Pradesh as well as in the entire coastal India. The visitors to Kailasagiri can have a 360-degree view from the fibre-glass cabins while travelling up and down the 375-metre ropeway.

The project has 8 six-seater transparent cabins for up and down journey. Ropeway trip costs Rs 35 per head.

KAARTHEEKAVANAM

An ethnic beach resort developed (in an area of 13 acre) on Visakha-Bheemli road. It is an amazing location for picnics and get-togethers with surroundings resembling rural atmosphere. The construction is made in ethnic nature avoiding cement and steel etc., to make it eco-friendly. The spots in Kartheekavanam are beautified with lush green eye-catching landscapes.





22

SUBMARINE MUSEUM

The submarine Museum at Ramakrishna Beach is an unique attraction. INS Kursura submarine has been turned into the museum. INS Kursura submarine is a Soviet built-I-641 class Submarine inducted into the Indian Navy on December 18, 1969, and the same was decommissioned on February 28, 2001, after 31 years of glorious service to the nation. The complete submarine including the weapon package was hauled-up from sea to land and positioned on a concrete foundation.

The services of six guides and one curator have been hired from the retired employees of Navy to talk about history and activities of the submarine to visitors. The submarine museum is opened to visitors on all the days from 4.00 pm to 8.00 pm except on Monday being the maintenance holiday. On all Sundays and public holidays, the museum opens in morning hours from 11.00 am to 1.30 pm. Entry fee is Rs 25 per head.

VUDA KIDS PARK

The amenities here are promoted with a scientific and natural mixture to enable children to earn physical and psychological fitness as well as knowledge. The abandoned lighthouse premises adjacent to the VUDA Park, has been developed by VUDA into a marvellous place for kids.

The variety of facilities generate the qualities of creativity and integrity by inculcating physical and psychological standards and fitness among children of all ages. The uniqueness of this activity is that the children of all ages were made to actively participate to design the surroundings and amenities at the premises.

VUDA PARK

It is developed on the beachfront in an area of 55 acre out of which 37 acre are covered with lawns, various species of flower plants, hedge plants and others. This park consists of around 2,500 shade-giving trees. It is the prominent recreation centre for Vizagites and the visitors of Visakhapatnam.

INDIRA GANDHI ZOOLOGICAL PARK

This is the second zoo park in the State after Hyderabad, encompassing 450 acre full of exotic species of animals and birds amidst rolling landscapes of natural habitat. Half of this has been allotted for a deer park. The other 300 types of specimens are allowed to move freely in a natural environment.

DOLPHIN'S NOSE

A conspicuous landmark in Vizag, Dolphin's Nose is a huge rocky headland 174 metres high and 358 metres above sea level, jutting out into the sea, resembling the shape of dolphin. The powerful beacon of the lighthouse set on a rock at sea directs ships 65 km away.



SRI SAMPAT VINAYAGAR TEMPLE

Though a tiny temple located at Asilmetta in city, Sri Sampat Vinayagar temple attracts a large number of devotees every day. The temple was constructed by T. S. Rajeswaran, T.S. Selvaganesan and late S. G. Sambandan with their funds in the year 1962 for their family members. During that time, Jalaries (local fishermen) used to offer prayers every day before going to the market for their daily business. Five years later, the Paramacharya of Kanchi His Holiness Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswati reconsecrated the shrine by placing "Sri Ganapathi Yantra" with his own hands. The Sampat Vinayagar temple came into prominence when Admiral Krishnan, in-charge of Eastern Naval Command,

broke 1001 coconuts before the Lord for saving Vizag from the Pakistani attack in 1971 December when its submarine Ghazi sank off the coast here.

Devotees believe that Sri Sampat Vinayagar is a powerful deity and there is a staunch belief among them that their sins are washed off and desires fulfilled by offering prayers to the deity.

During the Vinayaka Chaturthi celebrations, a nine-day festival takes place on a grand scale, by adorning the deity with separate alankarams on each day i.e in different avatharams. Abhishekam and alankaram of the Lord are unique in this temple.



23

VIZAG, VISAKHAPATNAM OR WALTAIR?

People today call Visakhapatnam the 'city of destiny', but it was only a fishing village once with clusters of habitations spread out along the seacoast.

Lying more or less mid-way between Chennai and Kolkata, the port city today boasts of many public sector units - Steel Plant, Hindustan Shipyard, Bharat Heavy Plates and Vessels (BHPV), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and Zinc Smelter besides being the headquarters for Eastern Naval Command (ENC).

Interestingly, the growing city still has under its jurisdiction as many as 14 villages.

According to tradition, very near the seashore was once located a temple dedicated to Vaisakheswara Swamy which was worshipped by the local Zamindars. The name of Visakhapatnam is a derivative of Vaisakheswara Swamy, though slightly corrupted in popular usage.

During the British rule, one Mr Waltair who represented the Government became very popular and in his memory the local railway station was called 'Waltair'. The Waltair area actually formed part of Vizianagaram estate. In 1802 the British made it a district headquarters town. Yielding to the pressure of the local population the railways later altered the station's name to Visakhapatnam.

But the man in the street, if asked about his native place, is apt to reply that he hails from 'Vizag'.



24

DREAMY BEACHES:

The exotic city of Visakhapatnam has several mesmerising beaches and endless lush green stretches of meadows. Here is a brief of some of the beaches in a city that excites and calms.

RAMAKRISHNA BEACH

It is an unique stretch of beach in Visakhapatnam with its golden soft sands and waves taking your breath away. It has well-developed landscape parks and lovely gardens and is truly a walker's paradise. It has been a favourite holiday destination for tourists.

YARADA

An enchanting sea-shore with lovely rocks and soft pebbles spread across the beach. It has an exotic blend of golden sands, lush green stretch of hills and picturesque landscapes.

BHEEMLI

The Visakhapatnam-Bheemli beach road is one of the longest beach roads in the country with a 25-km stretch. The Bheemunipatnam beach is an ideal spot for swimming and water sports. The remains of the Dutch settlement with a ruined fort, armoury and a Dutch cemetery dating back to the 17th century are preserved here.

RISHIKONDA

Eight km from Visakhapatnam with clean golden beaches, Rishikonda makes an ideal place for swimming, water skiing and wind surfing in picturesque settings. To provide comfortable accommodation facilities to tourists, AP Tourism has 22 A/C & 12 Non-A/C elegant cottages overlooking the beach, that are catered to by a bar & restaurant. Proposals to construct a swimming pool and introduce water sports are on the anvil.

HOT SPOT FOR ALL

Visakhapatnam, the land of the golden beaches was just over half a century ago a small fishing village. One would be amazed at the manner in which this port city with a natural harbour developed into one of the fastest growing cities in Asia.

Vast stretches of beaches right next to the city on one side and undulating green hills on the other have made Vizag, as it is endearingly called, a tourist haven.

An ideal destination, it caters to the religious-minded, the Buddhist pilgrim, the fun-lovers and adventure-seekers. A number of beaches and a long stretch of road along the sea-shore up to Bheemunipatnam town, the second oldest municipality in the country, are a pleasure to experience.

No trip to Vizag is complete without a sojourn at Araku, 112 km away, a lovely valley nestled amidst the high Eastern Ghats. Some of the places worth visiting in the district are:

Etikoppaka

Situated on the left bank of River Varaha, 20 km to the south of Yellamanchili, Etikoppaka is famous for the toys and dolls made with the light Ankudu wood.

Appikonda

18 km from Visakhapatnam, Appikonda is also known as Kapilakonda. It has a Shiva temple with a life size bull carved out of black stone. The temple contains inscriptions of the 12th century AD, with a mention that this village was granted by a commander-in-chief of the Cholas for the maintenance of worship in the temple.

PANCHADHARALA

Situated 24 km from Anakapalli, Panchadharala derived its name from the five jets of water coming out of five fountains from a natural perennial spring. There is a Lingam on which are carved other lingams in 12 rows of 85 each and thus also known as the 'Kotilingam' (crore lingams). There are several inscriptions found on the pillars of the mandapam in the temple.

BORRA CAVES

On the road to Araku Valley, located about 90 km from Visakhapatnam, Borra Caves house million-year-old stalactite and stalagmite formations, presenting a breathtaking display of naturally sculpted splendour. People throng these caves to make offerings to Lord Shiva seen in the form of natural stone lingas. The crystal white natural formations are also seen in various forms like a hooded serpent, different human shapes, Narada with his Tambura, Lord Brahma, Radha Krishna and a Nandi.

ANANTAGIRI

Situated on the way to Araku Valley, Anantagiri is a spot with enchanting beauty. Expansive coffee plantations, numerous waterfalls, of which Tadimada Waterfalls are most famous, and a rivulet add beauty to the place. It is also considered as a health resort.

ARAKU VALLEY

112 km from Visakhapatnam, Araku Valley is green and pleasant. The journey to the valley either by the ghat road or by train passing through several tunnels is a pleasure. A broad gauge railway line called the Kirandole Line runs through a section of the Eastern Ghats, going all the way into Madhya Pradesh. At 3,400 feet, the Kirandole line is arguably the highest broad gauge railway line in the country. The other major attractions in Araku are a tribal habitat museum, a tribal village and traditional folk dances including the famous tribal dance called "Dhimsa & Mayuri". Dhimsa dance is mainly performed by females with male performers joining sometimes. This dance is performed by the farming folk of Andhra Pradesh. The Dhimsa dance of

the Porja Caste, was an exclusive Women's Dance. Now it is performed by both women and men on special occasions, and is dedicated to the welfare of domestic life.

The men and women of the Porja caste perform the dance with great feeling. It is considered a must for newly-weds because on this day the women pray for a peaceful and happy married life. Women dance around in unison holding hands at the wrists.

CHAAPARAI: A perennial stream dodging and cutting across huge rock formations laid in the picturesque frame of Araku valley, is another picnic spot. It is located enroute to Paderu and is about 15 km away from Araku. The pleasures of this perennial stream running over huge rocks through the scenic valleys of Araku hill station are worth seeing. View points and Pagodas have also been added to further the beauty of this place.

PADMAPURAM GARDENS: A popular leisure place in Araku, it was established in 1942 over an extent of 26 acre for supply of vegetables to soldiers during the Second World War. Later, it was converted into a horticultural nursery and then developed into a botanical garden. This garden has a pleasant air of serenity and tranquility amidst the lush green nature, valleys and streams on the Eastern ghat. Here, the treetop cottages have become quite popular among the tourists.

TYDA

Located 75 km from Visakhapatnam on the Araku road, Tyda has been developed with camping facilities at Jungle Bells to provide an enchanting experience in the wilderness to the tourists. Home to a variety of wild mammals and avifauna, Tyda is ideal for viewing wildlife and bird watching. Other attractions are rock climbing, trekking and target shooting with bow & arrows. Tourists can also learn the language of the jungle-like identification of calls, marks etc. and understand interesting features of various flora and fauna of the Eastern Ghats with the help of naturalists/guides. Tourists can enjoy their stay in log huts and tents set in tribal environs.





Major Buddhist sites in Vizag District

SANKARAM

Unique Buddhist monuments are found on the two hillocks near the village called Sankaram near Anakapalli. There are three chaityas at three different places carved out on the rocks in the hills. On the eastern side of the hills is a rock cut temple with numerous Buddhist sculptures and a life-size statue of Buddha. These historic monuments are of great interest to tourists.

Sankaram



26

BAVIKONDA

Situated 20 km from Visakhapatnam city, Bavikonda is a site found a decade back on a hill. Religious structures, stupas, chaityagrihas, the congregation hall, platforms, viharas and kitchen-cum-store complexes are found here. The entire complex comprises 26 structures belonging to three phases. The artefacts recovered here include Roman coins and Satavahana coins apart from pottery dating back to 3rd century BC to 2nd century AD.

Bavikonda



THOTLAKONDA

Thotlakonda lies about 15 km from Visakhapatnam on the way to Bheemunipatnam. Located 128 m above sea level, this Buddhist site came to light during an aerial survey undertaken by the Indian Navy for locating suitable places to set up a naval base on the Northeastern seacoast. The habitation area over the hill covers 350 x 250 mts and is dotted with a number of mounds presumably indicating the existence of stupas, votive stupas, viharas, chaityagrihas, pillared hall etc. A similarity found between Bavikonda and Thotlakonda is the provision made for collecting rainwater to cater to the needs of Buddhist monks.

TEMPLE INFORMATION

FESTIVALS OF THE LORD:

The festivals of the temple are many and varied and divided broadly into two categories: Kalyanotsava and Chandana Yatrotsava. There are several other minor festivals such as "Vaarotsavas" (weekly festivals) and Maasotsavas (monthly festivals).



27

Kalyanotsavam	Chaitra Suddha Ekadasi to Pournami	March/April
Chandanotsavam	Vaisakha Suddha Thadia	April/May
Nrusimha Jayanti	(Vaisakha) Vrushabha Suddha Chaturdasi	May/June
Giri Pournami	Ashada Suddha Pournami day	July/August
Varalakshmi Vratam	Sravana Masam 2nd or 3rd day	Aug/September
Vijaya Dasami	Aswayuja Suddha Dasami day	Sept/October
Dhanurmasothavalu	Dhanurmasam	Dec 15 to Jan 14
Teppotsavam	Pushyabahula Amavasya	Jan/February
Dolotsavam	Phalguna Suddha Pournami	Feb/March

DARSHANAM TIMINGS

Suprabhatam	4.30 to 5 a.m.	Aradhana (morning)	5 to 7 a.m.
Darshanam	7 to 11.30 a.m.	Mahanivedhana	11.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.
Darshanam	12.30 to 2.30 p.m.	Swamivari Pavalimpu	2.30 to 3 p.m.
Darshanam	3.30 to 7 p.m.	Aaradhana (night)	7 to 8.30 p.m.
Darshanam	8.30 to 9 p.m.	Swamivari Pavalimpu	9 p.m. onwards

PRASADAM RATES:

Laddu Rs 5/- Pulihora Rs 3/- Pongal Rs 5/-



TEMPLE ACCOMMODATION

ROOMS belonging to the temple are available for rent at Simhachalam uphill and downhill. Enquiries about reservations can be made over telephone numbers 0891-2715242 (uphill) and 0891-2715435 (downhill). The actual booking will be done only after the pilgrim pays the prescribed rent in cash at specified counter in the temple. An outstation person can book the accommodation in advance by sending the amount for rent and reservation charges of Rs 50/- through Money Order or Demand draft in the name of Executive Officer of the temple.

28

UPHILL:

Name of Choultry	No. of rooms	Rent per day (in Rs)		
		Category - I	Category - II	Category - III
Gajapathi Satram	48	75	100	150
Simhachalam Nilayam	25	100	—	—

DOWNHILL:

Name of Choultry	No. of rooms	Rent per day (in Rs.)
TTD Choultry	18	100
Pururava Choultry	16	50
Pushkarini Choultry	40	100

KALYANA MANTAPAMS (DOWNHILL)

Name of the Mantapam	Rent per day (in Rs.)
Vijayarama Raju Kalyana Mantapam	2000/- + Service Charges
Goda Kalyana Mantapam	1000/- + Service Charges

Tribal women of Araku





Borra Caves

The sea kissing the beautiful road connecting
Visakhapatnam with Bheemli



Ropeway on Kailasagiri

A decommissioned submarine "INS Kursura" has been transformed into a museum for public view at Ramakrishna Mission Beach in Visakhapatnam



THE LORD'S TIME TABLE

The temple authorities have facilitated four different kinds of darshan of the presiding deity, one of which is totally free of any charge and three others carrying a variable tariff.

<i>Antharalaya darshan</i>	—	Rs. 100/-	<i>Suprabhata darshan</i>	—	Rs. 5/-
<i>Vishista darshan</i>	—	Rs. 30/-			

However, there are no different timings for any of these darshans. All that the devotees have to do is get into one of the four different queues and take their turn to worship the lord.

POOJAS AND SEVAS

Following is the tariff for Poojas and Sevas.

Ashtotharam	—	Rs. 100/-
Sahasram	—	Rs. 200/-
Pavalimpu Seva	—	Rs. 50/-
Swarna Pooja	—	Rs. 200/-
Laksha Tulasi Pooja	—	Rs. 1,116/-
Garuda Seva	—	Rs. 200/-
Saswatha Nitya Kalyanam	—	Rs. 5,000/-
"	—	Rs. 10,000/-
"	—	Rs. 10,000/-
"	—	Rs. 2,000/-
"	—	Rs. 1,000/-
"	—	Rs. 10,000/-
Nitya Bhoga Kainkaryam	—	Rs. 10,000/-

Charges for vehicles entry

Devasthanam collects charges for vehicles proceeding to uphill from downhill.

Category of vehicle	Charge
Two wheeler	Rs. 5/-
Car	Rs. 20/-
Sumo	Rs. 25/-
Van	Rs. 40/-
Lorry	Rs. 50/-
Mini Bus	Rs. 75/-

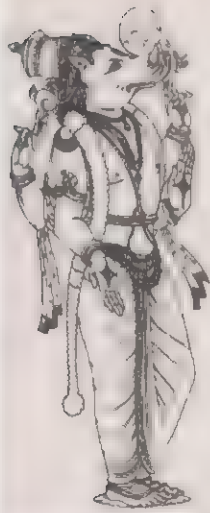
BUS SERVICE

Devasthanam operates 4 buses for the benefit of pilgrims from downhill to uphill and back.

Timings — between 4 am and 9 pm
Fares — Rs. 6/- (one side) per adult
 — Rs. 3/- (one side) per child

Devasthanam also runs two other bus services from Simhachalam to Annavaram (East Godavari district) and Sri Kurmam (Srikakulam district). While the charge for Annavaram is Rs. 60/- per head, it is Rs. 53/- per head to Sri Kurmam.





34

TOURS — PACKAGES

The AP Tourism Development Corporation offers a variety of tours to different destinations for the benefit of tourists. For reservation information, one can contact Tel No 98488-13584. The Central Reservation Office Tel No is 0891-2746446

VIZAG — SOUTH INDIA PACKAGE TOUR (15 DAYS)

Frequency : Every 3rd Sunday.

Tariff: Adult Rs 6,750/- Child Rs. 5,500/-

Places Covered: Vijayawada, Amaravati, Tirupathi, Tirumala, Tiruchanur, Thiruttani, Kanchi, Chennai, Mahabalipuram, Pakshithirtham, Pondicherry, Chidambaram, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur, Srirangam, Tiruchi, Madurai, Rameswaram, Kanyakumari, Suchindram, Trivendrum, Kovalam Beach, Cochin, Gurvayur, Ooty, Mysore, Srirangapatnam, Sravanabelagola, Beluru, Halebedu, Bangalore, Lepakshi, Srisailam.

(Above Tariff includes accommodation only)

VIZAG CITY 4 HILLS TOUR (ONE DAY)

Timings: 8.00 am to 8.00 pm

Frequency: Daily

Tariff: Adult - Rs 320/- (including lunch)

Child: Rs 260/- (including lunch)

Places Covered: Simhachalam Temple, Yarada, Dolphin nose, Ross Hill, Zoo Park, Rushikonda Beach, R.K. Beach, Visakha Museum, Submarine Museum, Kailasagiri & MGM (Vuda Park), excluding entry tickets. (Visakha Museum / Submarine Museum / Zoo Park - Monday Holiday).

ARAKU-BORRA CAVES (ONE DAY)

Rail-cum-Road: Reporting Time: 7.00 am at APTDC Railway Station Counter, Railway Station. Visakhapatnam.

Timings: 7.00 am. To 9.00 pm

Frequency: Daily

Tariff: Adult Rs 400/- ; Child Rs 320/-

(including Breakfast, Mineral Water, Lunch, Evening Tea & all Entrance Fees)

Places Covered: Padmapuram Gardens, Tribal Museum, Jungle Bells - TYDA, Ananthagiri Coffee Plantations, Gali Konda View Point, Borra Caves.

Entertainment: Tribal Dhimsa Dance at Araku

ARAKU-BORRA CAVES (2 DAYS TOUR)

(Accommodation, Food Inclusive): Adult Rs 860/-
Child Rs 690/-

ARAKU-BORRA CAVES

By Road:

Timings: 7.00 am to 9.00 pm
(Hitech Video Coach)

One Day:

Tariff: Adult Rs 300/-
Child: Rs 240/-

Places Covered: Tyda Railway Tunnel, Damuku View Point, Borra Caves, Ananthagiri Coffee Plantation, Padmapuram Gardens, Tribal Museum. (includes Lunch, Mineral Water, all entry fee)

VIZAG - JAGDALPUR (THREE DAYS)

Timings: 7.00am.
Adult: Rs 2600/-; **Child:** Rs 2000/-

Package Tour Frequency: Every Friday
(Friday to Sunday)

Tariff: Adult- Rs 2100/-; Child - Rs 1680/-
(including food, Accommodation)

Places Covered: Rail cum Road - Araku - Machkhand Project - Duduma waterfalls - jeypore - Kutubasar caves - Tirdhaghar waterfalls - (Jagdalpur) - Balaji Temple - Danteswari Temple, Chitrakut waterfalls.

VIZAG - ARASAVILLI (ONE DAY)

Timings: 6.30 am. To 7.00 pm

Frequency: Every Sunday

Tariff: Adult Rs 260/-; Child: Rs 210/-

Places Covered: Arasavilli, Srikurmam, Salihundam, Srimukhalingam.

VIZAG - BHADRACHALAM (TWO DAYS)

Timings: 6.30 am

Frequency: Every Saturday

Tariff: Adult Rs 700/-; Child Rs 560/-
(inclusive of accommodation)

Places Covered: Sileru Dam, Parnasala, Bhadrachalam.

VIZAG - BHUBANESWAR (THREE DAYS)

Timings: 8.30 pm

Frequency: Every Friday

Tariff: Adult Rs 1100/-; Child Rs 880/-
(inclusive of accommodation)

Places Covered: Konark, Puri, Bhubaneswar, Lingaraj temple,

Muktheswar temple, Siddheswar temple, Nandan Kaanan Zoo, Pipli, Chilka Lake.

SAGARA SIKHARA RIDE (VIZAG CITY)

Half day : 2.30 pm to 9 pm

Frequency: Daily

Tariff: Adult: Rs 125/- (including snacks)
Child: Rs 100/- (including snacks)

Places Covered: Bhimli, Yerra Matti Dibbalu, Thotlakonda, Rushikonda, R.K. Beach, Kali Temp;le, Submarine Museum, Kailasagiri.

VIZAG - MANUGURU

Timings: 10.00 pm

Frequency: Daily

Tariff: Adult - Rs 260/-
Child - Rs 210/-

Places Covered: Bhadrachalam, Manuguru.

TARIFF FOR CHARTERED VEHICLES

- * 8 seater Non A/c Toyota QLS - Rs 6/- per KM
- * 8 Seater A/c Toyota QLS Rs 8/- Per KM
- * 18 seater Vintage Non A/C Rs 15/- Per KM
- * 24 seater Non A/c Rs 17/- Per KM
- * 36 seater Hi-Tech Non A/c Rs 22/- Per KM
- For all the above 6 Hrs. / 120 Kms. is minimum slab
- * 24 seater Swaraj Mazda A/c Rs 24/- Per KM, Non A/c. Rs 20/-
(Toll Gate, Parking Charges & Other State taxes extra.)





36

TOURISM CORPORATION - INFORMATION FACILITIES

PUNNAMI HOTEL, VISAKHAPATNAM

Opp. Appugar	Check Out Time - 10 am	
Visakhapatnam-17		TARIFF
Ph: 0891-2562333	Four Bedded Room A/c	Rs 1200
2710711	Suite Room A/c	Rs 1100
	Double Room A/c	Rs 800
	Double Room Non A/c	Rs 600
	Extra Person A/c	Rs 100
	Non A/c	Rs 75

LOCATION: Situated 6 km from Visakhapatnam Railway Station, 5 km from APSRTC Complex, 6 km from commercial area and 13 km from Vizag Airport.

FACILITIES:

- * Pongali multi cuisine restaurant
- * Amruta bar
- * Conference hall
- * Laundry and transport facilities on demand
- * AP Tourism sight seeing tours
- * Kerala Ayurvedic Massage Centre is available. All rooms have a view of beach and Kailasagiri picnic spot. TV with multi channel, telephone in all the rooms. Doctor on call. Taxes applicable as per the Govt. rules.

PUNNAMI BEACH RESORT, VISAKHAPATNAM

Visakhapatnam:	Check Out Time - 10 AM	
Ph: 0891-2790733 /		TARIFF:
2790734	Deluxe A/c	Rs 1000/-
	Extra Person A/c	Rs 100/-

LOCATION: 15 km from Visakhapatnam Railway Station 14 km. from APSRTC complex, 23 km from Vizag Airport.

FACILITIES:

- * Pongali multi cuisine restaurant
 - * Amruta bar
 - * Laundry and transport facilities on demand
 - * Boating
 - * AP Tourism sight seeing tours
 - * Excellent view of Rushikonda Beach right from the room. Doctor on call.
- Taxes are applicable as per the Govt. rules.



JUNGLE BELLS (AN ECO-TOURISM PROJECT)

Nature Camp at TYDA, Check Out Time - 10 am
Visakhapatnam (AP)

LOCATION: 75 kms. From Visakhapatnam enroute to Araku in the foothills of Eastern ghats.

TARIFF:

A/c Wooden Cottage	Rs 850
Igloo Cottage A/c	Rs 950
Wooden Cottage	Rs 650
Wooden Log Hut	Rs 500
Aerocon Cottage / Log Hut	Rs 450
Extra Person	Rs 75

FACILITIES:

- * Trekking
- * Birds Watching
- * Archery
- * Campfire
- * Pongali Multi Cuisine Restaurant
- * Dhimsa Dance on Tuesday & Thursday
- * Taxes Extra

PUNNAMI HILL RESORT, ARAKU VALLEY

Ph: 08936-249643/249491 Check Out Time - 10 am

TARIFF:

VIP Suit	Rs 725
Deluxe Room / Big Cottage	Rs 400
Cellar Room / Small Cottage	Rs 300
Craft Village Cottages	Rs 525
Extra Person	Rs 75

FACILITIES:

- * Pongali Multi Cuisine Restaurant
- * Laundry and Transport Facilities arranged on request
- * Sight seeing tours
- * Taxes Extra

PUNNAMI VALLEY RESORT, ARAKU

Ph: 08936-249490 / 249201/ Check Out Time - 10 am
249202 / 249203

TARIFF:

A/c Suite Room	Rs 1050
Non A/c Suite Room	Rs 675
Deluxe Room	Rs 550
Extra Person	Rs 75
* Taxes Extra	

SERVICES:

- * Gosti-A/c. Conference Hall
- * Champa Multi Cuisine Restaurant
- * Mahua Bar, Swimming Pool, Billiards Room, Gym, Massage Centre
- * Laundry and Transport Facilities arranged on request
- * Sight seeing tours are also arranged.

LOCATION: Araku Valley is located 120 kms. away from Visakhapatnam. Nearest Airport is Visakhapatnam. Araku is having broad guage railway line from Visakhapatnam to Kirandul in Chattisgarh State. Altitude 931 mts. MSL





38

PRIVATE ACCOMMODATION — VIZAG CITY

Taj Residencey

Single room: Rs 1995, Double room: Rs 2,495, Suite: Rs 3,650, Deluxe suite Rs 3,950 (+5 pc surcharge). For NRIs and foreigners. Single room \$ 60, Double room \$ 75. Executive suite \$ 80 and Deluxe suite \$ 90 Buffet dinner Rs 250 (+5% tax), buffet lunch Rs 180 (Week days)

Beach Road 2567756/ 2564784

The Park

Superior Single room: Rs 2600, Superior Double room: Rs 3,000, Executive suite: Rs 4,500; Deluxe single room: Rs 3,200, Delux double room: Rs 3,600, Extra Bed: Rs 600 (plus 5% tax for all categories of rooms), Lighthouse Buffet dinner Rs 200 + Taxes, Cuisine: Indian, Continental and Chinese.

Beach Road.....2754488/2754181

Green Park

Room tariff with buffet breakfast: Exe Single room: Rs 1450, Executive double: Rs 1650, Deluxe single: Rs 1750, Deluxe double: Rs 1950, Business club single: Rs 2050, double: Rs 2250, Executive suite: Rs 2550, Quality suite: Rs 2850. Princes Maha-Buffet lunch Rs 165 (+13% tax), 12 noon to 3.30 pm; Chinese buffet dinner Rs 179 (+13% tax), 7pm to 11pm; Veg. Thali Rs 79 (+13% tax), Non-veg Thali Rs 109 (+13% tax). Midnight biryani Rs 110 (+13% tax) 11.30 pm onwards.

Main Road.....2564444

Dolphin

Executive Single room: Rs 1295, Executive double room: Rs 1495, Deluxe single: Rs 1795, Double Rs 1995. Suit double: Rs 2495 (+5% APL Tax). South Indian Thali Rs 75 + tax, Buffet Dinner Rs 165 + tax, Multi Cuisine non-vegetarian buffet lunch Rs 165 + tax.

Suryabagh.....2567000/2567555

Daspalla

Standard room: Rs 1050, Double room: Rs 1250, Standard deluxe: Rs 1,400, Executive room: Rs 1175, Double room: Rs 1,375, Superior Room: Rs 1250, Double Room: Rs 1,450, Suite: Rs 2000 (+5% Luxury tax), Veg thali Rs 47 + taxes.

Suryabagh..... 2564825/2563141

Meghalaya

Single room: Rs 599, Double room: Rs 699, Deluxe single: Rs 699, Standard deluxe double: Rs 799, (+5 pc surcharge); Royal suite single: Rs 899, Royal suite double: Rs 999, Veg thali Rs 50.

Behind Municipal Corporation.....2755141-145

Grand Bay

Deluxe single Rs 2700/\$65, Double Rs 3200/\$ 75 Executive Club Rs 3500/\$ 85, Double Rs. 4000/\$ 95, Deluxe Suite Rs 5500/\$ 130 Extra Bed Rs 500/\$ 10 (+5tax), Brekfast Rs 1 60, Lunch: Thali: Veg: Rs 199, Non-Veg: Rs 259. (+5 pc taxes).

Beach Road.....2560101

Royal Fort Hotel

Room type: Classic single: Rs 845, Double: Rs 995, Elite single: Rs 995, Double 1195, Royal Single 1195, Double 1395, Regal Suites 1795, Veg. Thali Rs 38, Spl Veg Thali 54, N.V. Thali Rs 90 Taxes as applicable.

Asilmetta Junction.....5567575

Saaket Residency

Non A/c - A/c Tariff's from Rs 380 to Rs 1510 (tax extra). Unlimited Breakfast Rs. 29, Executive Lunch-Veg. Rs 35, Non Veg Rs 49, Saturday Evening Tiffins: Adult Rs 49, Child Rs 39 (Taxes extra).

Opp. Jyothi Theatre Ladies Gate 2780000-04

Dwaraka Inn

Single Room A/c: Rs 495, Double room A/c : Rs 555, Non-A/c Single room: Rs 295, double: Rs 355, (+ 5 pc surcharge), Veg. Thali - Rs 35.

Station Road, Dwarakanagar2712631-636

Palm Beach

Executive A/c room: Rs 675, Executive A/c Double Rs 775, Double suite: Rs 1175 (+ 5% tax), A/c Deluxe single Rs 875, A/c Deluxe double Rs 975 (+5 pc surcharge).

Beach Road.....2754027

Prince

Single Room Rs 400, double Rs 450, Single non-A/c Rs 280, double Non-A/c Rs 300, Deluxe single Non-A/c Rs 260, Deluxe Double non-A/c Rs 330 (+5 pc surcharge) Veg thali Rs 35.

Dabagardens.....2747676

Sarovar

Deluxe A/c Single Room Rs 550, non-A/c single Rs 450, double Rs 500 Veg thali Rs 35.

Dwarakanagar.....2755004

Sree Kanya

A/c Room Double: Rs 500, Double Rom Deluxe: Rs 275 Single Room Deluxe: Rs 175, Single Room Ordinary: Rs 130 (Luxury Tax 5% extra) with attached A/c and non A/c Restaurant.

Near Rajeswari Theatre.....2564881

Daspalla Executive Court

Economy rooms Sgl. Rs 995, Double Rs 1,195, Executive Rooms Rs. 1,145, Double Rs 1,345, Economy suites Rs 1,,600, Suites Rs 1,800.

Dwarakanagar.....2717300





40

THE INDUSTRIAL HUB

Visakhapatnam is not just a city where the hills and the sea meet providing an enchanting holiday to tourists. It is also a major industrial hub, and currently the fastest growing city after Hyderabad in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

PORT: If it were not for the port which was opened way back in 1933, Vizag would have been a sleepy fishing village. Now the port promises to become one of the biggest in Asia, witnessing multi-fold growth with each passing year.

STEEL PLANT: If Visakhapatnam is also known as the Steel City of India, the credit goes to the Vizag Steel Plant, a venture of the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. One of the foremost steel plants in the country, VSP is setting new records in producing high quality standards of steel and allied products.

ANDHRA UNIVERSITY: Founded by Cattamanchi Ramalinga Reddy, it was first established in Vijayawada and later shifted to Visakhapatnam in 1930. The varsity witnessed significant growth during the vice-chancellorship of Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. Spread over an area of 500 acre, the university has close to 70 departments.

HINDUSTAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION LIMITED (HPCL): The Visakha refinery was commissioned in 1957 as Caltex Oil Refining India Limited [CORIL]. It was the first oil refinery on the East Coast and the first major industry in Visakhapatnam. The installed capacity was 0.65 Million Metric Tonnes per Annum [MMTPA]. Following nationalization of oil industry, CORIL was taken over by Government of India and merged with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited [HPCL] in 1978.

The refinery has been expanded in a phased manner over the years and the current capacity is 7.5 MMTPA.

HOW TO REACH VIZAG

Air: The port city is connected to Hyderabad, Chennai, Kolkata and Bhubaneswar by Indian Airlines and Jet Air flights.

Rail: Vizag is an major junction on the commercially important Chennai-Kolkata rail line. As such, the city is well connected by rail with New Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata and Hyderabad. Daily express trains are operated to all the four major cities.

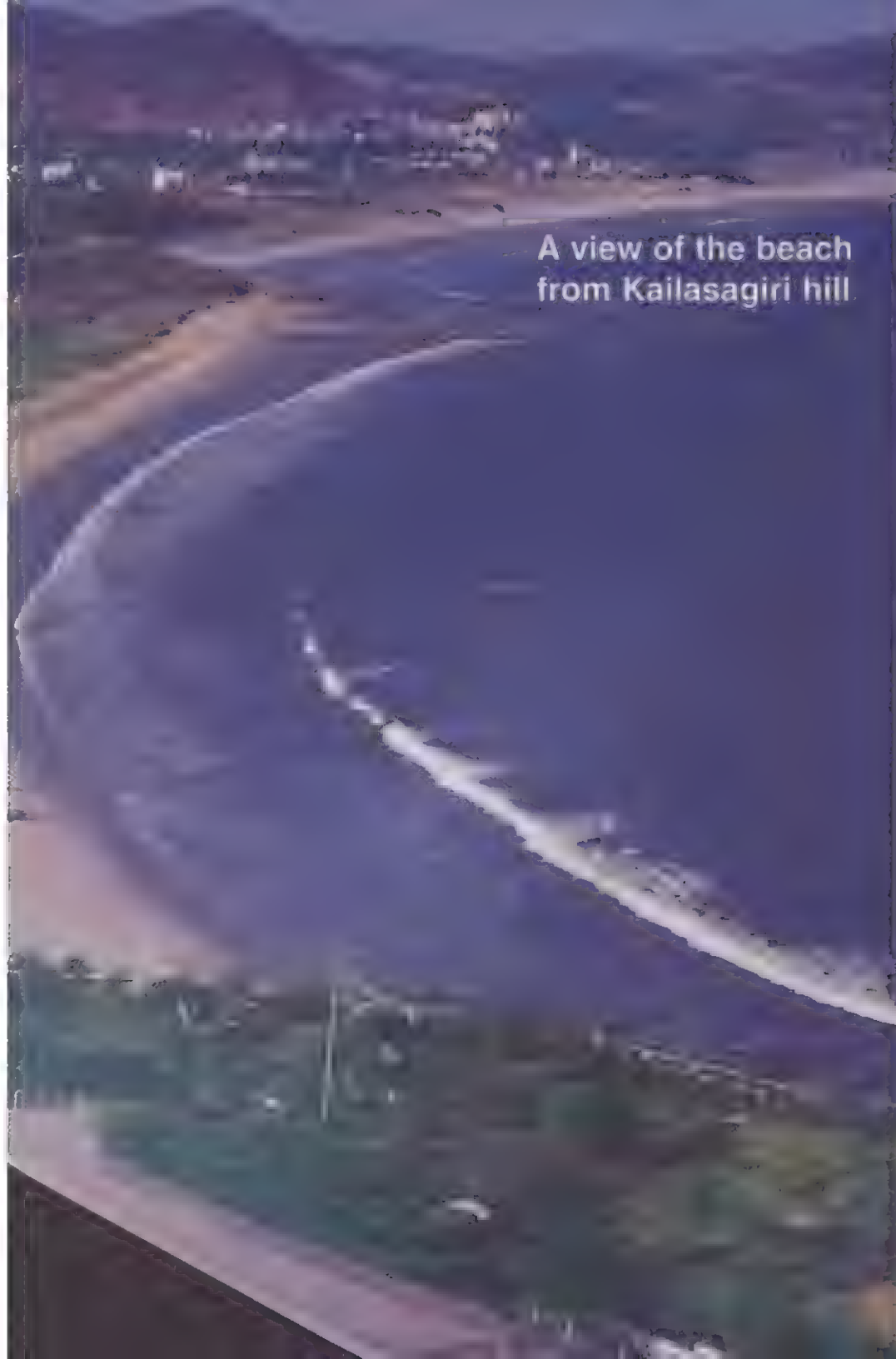
Road: The city is 700 km from Hyderabad and 350 km from Vijayawada. Regular bus services are available to the State capital, Vijayawada, Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Tirupati and other major cities.

HERITAGE BUILDINGS IN VIZAG

Town Hall, King George Hospital, Turners' Choultry, Collectorate Building, Hindu Reading Room, Kurupam monument, Visakha Museum building, Christian cemetery, Waltair Club building, Circuit House, Vikram Deo Varma college (AU campus), Hawa Mahal and District Court.



A journey by the Kirandole railway line to Araku valley affords a tourist with magnificent sights of Eastern Ghats



A view of the beach
from Kailasagiri hill



Anantagiri waterfalls



MUNICIPAL CORPORATION VISAKHAPATNAM

- VMC is currently providing online revenue collection in all 10 E-Seva Saukaryam Centers.
- Integrated Civic services in VMC Saukaryam Center.
- Widening and strengthening of 60kms length main roads under Comprehensive Road Development Project (CRDP) in three phases with Rs 150 Crore.
- Beach Road development project at an estimated cost of Rs 4 Crore.
- World Bank Project: A Rs. 271.25 Crore World Bank Project under Andhra Pradesh Urban Reforms and Municipal Services Project is proposed to be implemented in next 3 years.
- Godavari Drinking Water Supply Project at a cost of Rs. 167.50 Crore is under progress.
- Under Ground Drainage (UGD) is being implemented in the entire city in a phased manner.
- Introduction of computer education in selective schools covering 10,000 students.

N. SRIKANTH, IAS

COMMISSIONER, MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, VISAKHAPATNAM



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www.visakhapatnammunicipalcorporation.org

DPEP/SSA సామాన్యచరిత్రం

జిల్లా ప్రాథమిక విద్యా పథకము

సర్వ శిక్షా అభియానం

విశాఖపట్నం జిల్లా

బడి వయస్సు పిల్లల్ని బడికి పంపించడం, అర్థంతరంగా చదువు వదలి పెట్టకుండా చూడటం, వారికి గుణాత్మక విద్యగలిపే ఉద్దేశంతో నెలకొల్పిన డి.పి.ఇ.పి. / ఎస్.ఎస్.పి. ఇప్పటికే ఎన్నో విజయాలను సాధించింది. వాటిలో ముఖ్యమైనవి:

- **నూతన పాఠశాలలు :** అవసరమైన చోట నూతన పాఠశాలలు ప్రారంభించి, ఎక్స్‌ప్రెస్ మెంటు కొరకు రూ. 10000/- విడుదల.
- **పాఠశాలల అప్‌గ్రేడ్ మెంట్ :** ప్రాథమిక పాఠశాలలను ప్రాథమికోన్నత పాఠశాలలుగాను, ప్రాథమికోన్నత పాఠశాలలను ఉన్నత పాఠశాలలుగాను అప్‌గ్రేడ్ చేసి రూ. 50000/- చొప్పున ఎక్స్‌ప్రెస్ మెంటు కొరకు విడుదల.
- **ప్రత్యామ్నాయ పాఠశాలల ఏర్పాటు :** ప్రాథమిక పాఠశాలల ఏర్పాటుకు వీలుకాని 101 మారుమూల చిన్న గ్రామాలలో ప్రత్యామ్నాయ పాఠశాలలను ఏర్పాటు చేసి, విద్యా వ్యాప్తికి కృషి.
- **విద్యా వాలంటరీ నియామకం :** విద్యార్థుల సంఖ్యను బట్టి అవసరమైన చోట్ల 4265 విద్యావాలంటరీ నియామకం.
- **మండల రిపోర్టు సెంటర్లు :** మండల రిపోర్టు సెంటర్ల ఏర్పాటు, ఉపాధ్యాయులకు గైడెన్స్.

- **స్కూల్ ఎడ్యుకేషన్ :** 2004-2005 లో ఫిజికల్ ఛాలెంజ్ విద్యార్థులు 48 మందికి పిల్ల చైర్స్, మరో 48 మందికి వినికెడి సాధనాల పంపిణీ.
- **NPEGL :** ఈ కార్యక్రమంలో భాగంగా ఆడపిల్లల నమోదు తక్కువగా వున్న ప్రాంతాలైన 97 క్లస్టర్లలో ఒక్కొక్క క్లస్టరుకు మూడు లక్షల రూపాయలతో ప్యాకేజీ అమలు.
- **కంప్యూటర్ ఆధారిత విద్య :** 2004-2005 విద్యా సంవత్సరంలో 40 సెంటర్లలోని 11000 మంది హైస్కూలు విద్యార్థులకు కంప్యూటరు ఆధారిత అభ్యాసనం (CAL) లో శిక్షణ, ఉత్తమ ప్రతిభ చూపిన విద్యార్థులకు కంప్యూటర్ ఆధారిత విద్య.
- **జిల్లాలో బాగా కృషి చేస్తున్న పాఠశాలల గురించి అందరికీ తెలియజేసి ఇతర విద్యా సంస్థలకు స్ఫూర్తినిచ్చే ఉద్దేశ్యంతో 'విద్యా విశాఖ' మాసపత్రిక ప్రచురణ.**
- **పాఠశాల భవన నిర్మాణం :** ఇప్పటి వరకు రూ. 3400 లక్షలు వెచ్చించి 2426 తరగతి గదుల నిర్మాణం, 2004-05 లో రూ. 540 లక్షలు వెచ్చించి 259 తరగతి గదుల నిర్మాణం పూర్తి.
- **ప్రతి పాఠశాల నిర్వహణకు రూ. 3500/- నుండి రూ. 6000/- వరకు మెయింటెనెన్స్ గ్రాంటు విడుదల.**
- **ఆడపిల్లల చదువును ప్రోత్సహించడానికి 26,011 మంది (ఓ. సి.) ఆడపిల్లలకు ఉచిత పాఠ్యపుస్తకాలు పంపిణీ, 2500 పాఠశాలల్లో ఆడపిల్లలకు యూనిఫామ్స్ మంజూరు.**

విద్యా విశాఖ

ఉపాధ్యాయులలో, విద్యార్థులలో నిబద్ధిత్వంతో వున్న నైపుణ్యాలను వెలికితీసి, అటువంటి అంశాలను ప్రచురించి విద్యా వ్యవస్థకు వారిని పరిచయం చేయడం; విద్యార్థులు, ఉపాధ్యాయులు సాధించిన విజయాలను ప్రచురించడం ద్వారా ఇతరులకు స్ఫూర్తిని కలిగించడం; జిల్లా విద్యాశాఖ ఇచ్చే ఆదేశాలను ప్రచురించడం వంటి ప్రధాన ఉద్దేశాలతో 'విద్యా విశాఖ' మాసపత్రిక ను ప్రచురిస్తున్నాం.

ఎమ్. వి. గోవిందరాజులు, M.Sc.,

అదనపు ప్రాజెక్టు కో-ఆర్డినేటర్

డి.పి.ఇ.పి. / ఎస్.ఎస్.పి.

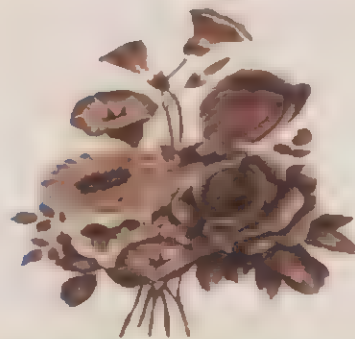
విశాఖపట్నం

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DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM VISAKHAPATNAM

Ongoing Tourism Projects with Government Funds:

ALLURI SEETHARAMA RAJU MEMORIAL THEME
PARK AT K.D.PETA
| KONDAKARLA AVA IN ACHUTAPURAM MANDAL
| DUTCH CEMETRIES AT BHEEMLI

Ongoing Tourism Projects under private investment:

| BAY PARK RESORT NEAR RISHIKONDA
| HEALTH RESORT NEAR SAGAR NAGAR
| WAYSIDE AMENITIES PROJECT NEAR ENDADA
| WATER SPORTS & AMUSEMENT PARK AT
MANGAMARIPETA

Places of Interest in Visakhapatnam district:

| Yarada Beach | Dolphin's nose | R.K. Beach | Submarine Museum
| Visakha Museum | VUDA Park | Kurupam Memorial | Shivaji Park
| Lawson's Bay | Lumbini Park | Tenneti Park | Kailasa Hill
| Jodugullapalem | Karteeka Vanam | Rishikonda | Jatara (urban hut)
| Indira Gandhi Zoological Park | Mudasaralova | Sinhachalam
| Gangavaram Beach | Appikonda | Thotlakonda | Bavikonda
| Mangamaripeta | Erramatti Dibbalu | Bheemunipatnam
| Padmanabham | Potnuru | Sankaram | Devipuram | Kambalakonda
| Etikoppaka | Panchadarla | Muthyalammipalem Beach | Pudimadaka
| Gopalapatnam | Tyda Jungle Bells | Borra Caves; | Anantagiri
| Araku Valley | Matsyagundam | Paderu | Machkund
| Raiwada Reservoir | Konam Reservoir | Balighattam
| Krishnadevipeta | Rajampalem

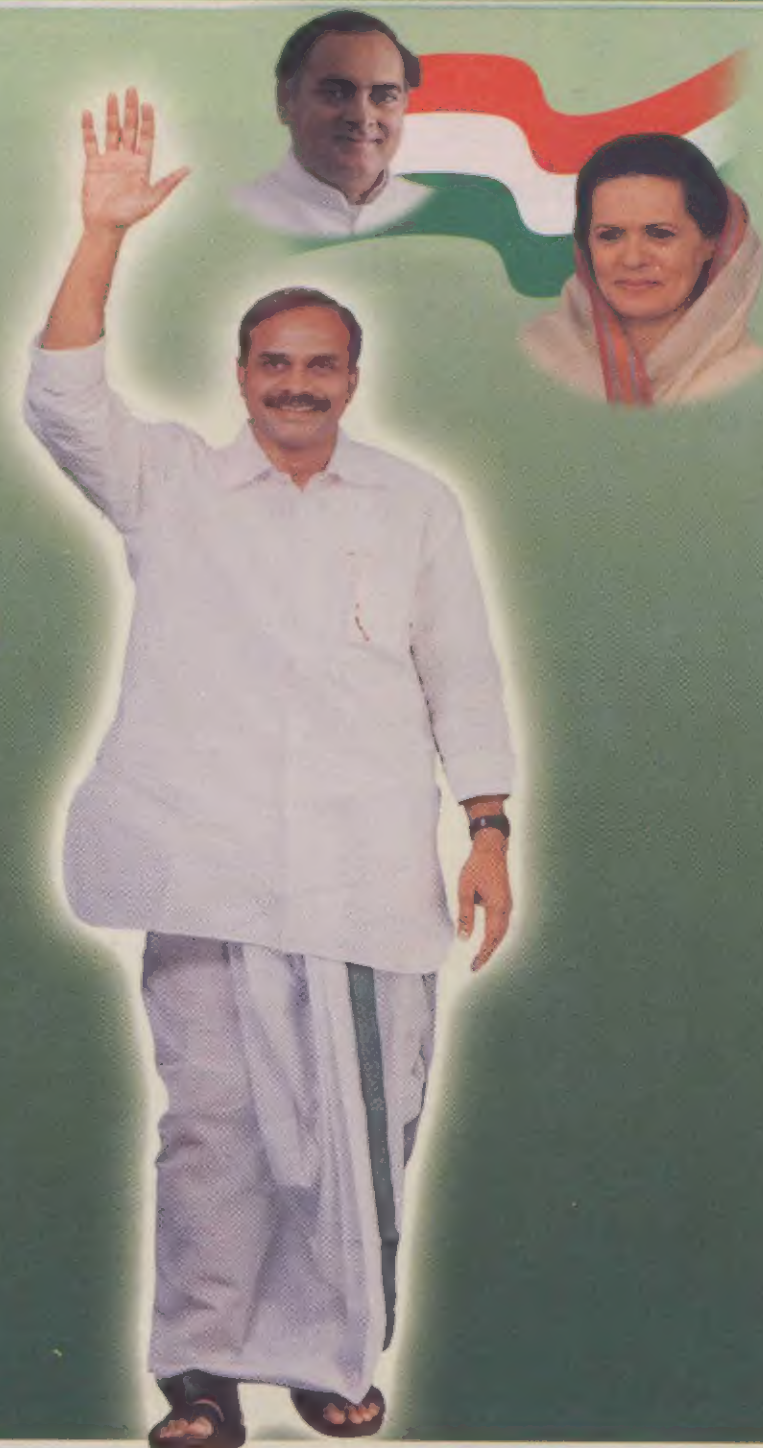
DISTRICT COLLECTOR & CHAIRMAN
DTPC, VISAKHAPATNAM



Andhra Pradesh

The fore-runner for integrated development

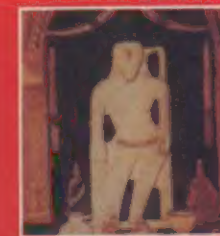
- ♦ **'Rajiv Pallebata'** is aimed at interacting with people and gaining first hand information about their problems and offering prompt solutions.
- ♦ **'Rajiv Internet Village'** was set up linking every village through the Internet to access information online.
- ♦ **'Rajiv Yuva Shakti'** aims at empowering unemployed youth of the State.
- ♦ **'Indira Prabha'** is a Rs. 500 crore integrated land development scheme for the benefit of SC, ST and weaker sections.
- ♦ One-third of the State's annual budget is allocated with a focus on **Agriculture, Irrigation** and other allied sectors.
- ♦ Major thrust on **Industrial development** in the State.
- ♦ **'Mega Pharma City'** to be set up near Visakhapatnam with an estimated budget of Rs. 182 crores on 2120 acres of land.
- ♦ **Irrigation projects** to be carried out with a record plan outlay of Rs. 46,000 crores in the next 5 years.





Sri Sri Sri Varaha Lakshmi Nrusimha Swamivari Devasthanam

SIMHACHALAM, VISAKHAPATNAM - 530 028.



Devotees and Charitable Souls

Let Lord Sri Simhadrinadha bestow upon you all sorts of comforts and wealth
"ANNADANAM" is superior among all "DANAMS".

Simhachalam Devasthanam has established a noble funding system to provide free meals in the noon every day to the devotees coming to visit this sacred place from all parts of the country.

Devotees are free to donate funds for running this "NITYA ANNADANA PATHAKAM"

CATEGORY-I "MAHARAJA POSHAK"

Donors who donate Rs 1,00,000/- and above are eligible for "Pooja Darshanam" and free meals to entire family on any day in the year.
Six hundred pilgrims will be served free meals on the day chosen by the donor.

CATEGORY-II "RAJA POSHAK"

Donors who donate Rs 50,000/- or above are eligible for Pooja Darshanam and free meals on any one day in the year. 300 pilgrims will be provided with free meals on the day chosen by the donor.

CATEGORY-III "POSHAK"

Donors who donate Rs. 10,000/- or above are eligible for Pooja Darshanam and free meals on any one day in the year.
Sixty pilgrims will be provided with free meals on the day as chosen by the donor.

CATEGORY-IV "DATAS"

Those who donate Rs 1,116/- to Rs 2,000/- or more are eligible to have Free Meals and Darshanam on any day in the year. Six to Eight devotees will be provided with free meals on one day in a year according to the amount donated.

All the above donations are deposited in the Banks and the expenditure for providing free meals is from the interest accruing on it.

All donations small or big will be received at the office of the "NITYA ANNADANAM PATHAKAM". Donations may be sent in the name of Executive Officer, Sri Simhadrinatha Nitya Annadanam Pathakam, Simhachalam, in the form of Cheques / Demand Drafts of any Bank in the country.

Donations are kept in safe deposit. Only interest will be utilized.

Donors will be provided with a proforma on receiving the donation wherein the address of the donor, the date on which annadanam will be organised as chosen by the donor will be recorded and a permanent bond will be issued.

Those who wish to donate are requested to furnish the following details in their application. 1) Name & Address. 2) In whose name annadanam is to be provided. 3) Gotram and on which date annadanam is to be provided. 4) Donation. 5) Name of the Bank.

We request one and all to participate in this noble and sacred programme of providing Annadanam (Free Meals) to the visiting devotees.

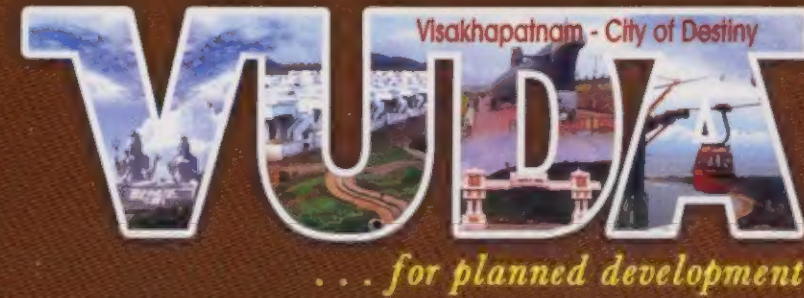
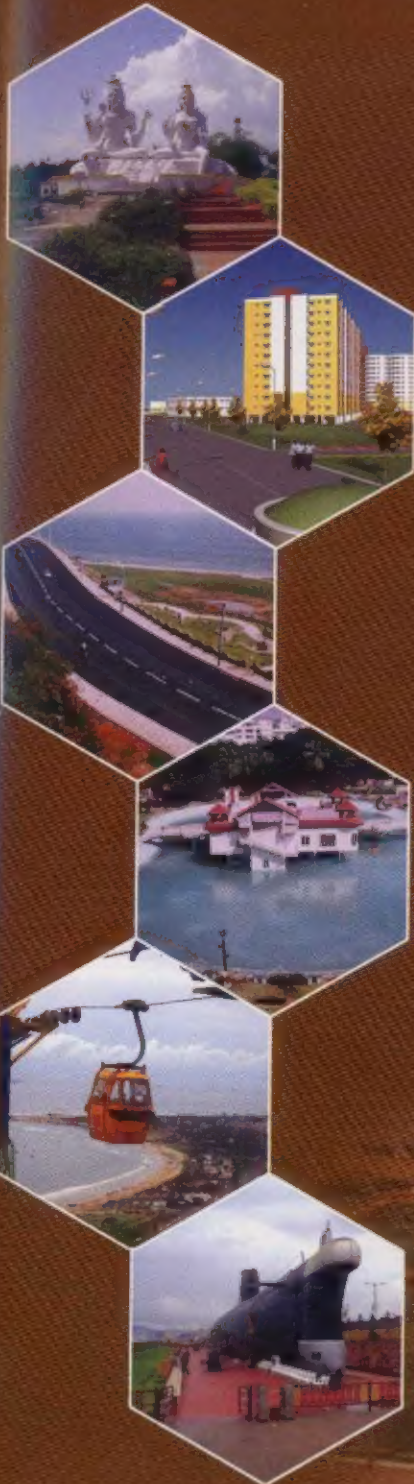
V. SANKARA REDDY, B.A., B.L.

Executive Officer &

Regional Joint Commissioner

Simhachalam Devasthanam, Simhachalam.

CHANDANA YATRA — NIJARUPA DARSHAN ON VAISAKHA SUDDHA THADIYA (11-05-2005)



- Housing
- Roads & Transport
- Common Services
- Welfare
- Entertainment
& Tourism



Visakhapatnam Urban Development Authority

Siripuram, Visakhapatnam-530 003.

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For details, please contact : GM (Mktg), Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd., Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, Visakhapatnam - 530 031. Fax : 0891-2518316